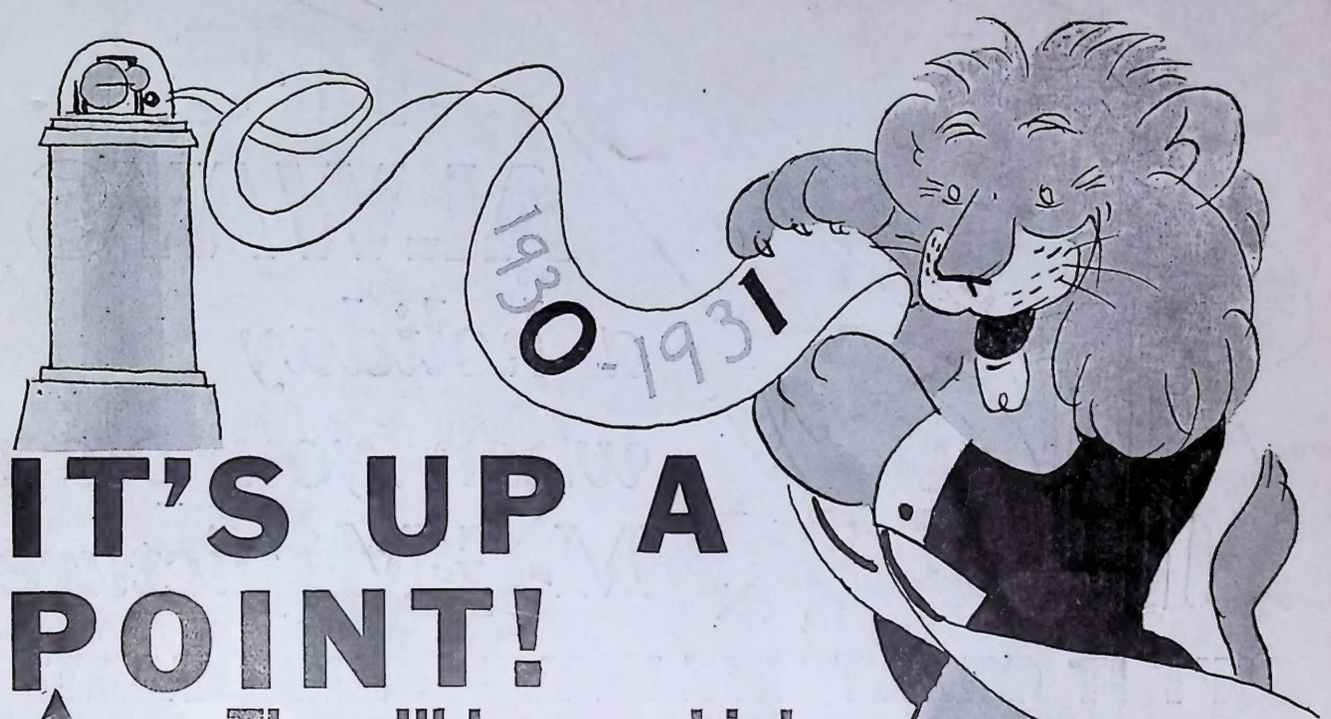
CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

Vol. 22, No. 36 TORONTO 2, CANADA January 3rd, 1931



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There'll be new highs in your house in 1931 when you play

MARION DAVIES *in* THE BACHELOR FATHER. Richly human, uproariously funny. Another "Let Us Be Gay." Based on Belasco's stage hit. With Ralph Forbes. Directed by Robert Z. Leonard.

Happy New Year

Lawrence TIBBETT-Grace MOORE *in* NEW MOON. With Adolphe Menjou, Roland Young. Book and lyrics by Arthur Hammerstein, 2nd, Frank Mandel and Lawrence Schwab. Music by Sigmund Romberg. Directed by Jack Conway.

THE GREAT MEADOW. With John Mack Brown, Eleanor Boardman, Lucille La Verne, Anita Louise, Gavin Gordon. Based on today's best-selling novel by Elizabeth Madox Roberts. Directed by Charles Brabin.

Joan CRAWFORD *in* PAID. Based on Bayard Veiller's play "Within The Law." With Robert Armstrong, Marie Prevost. Directed by Sam Wood.

Marie DRESSLER-Polly MORAN *in* REDUCING. With Anita Page, Lucien Littlefield. Directed by Chas. F. Riesner.

GRETA GARBO *in* INSPIRATION. Clarence Brown, director. With Robert Montgomery, Lewis Stone, Marjorie Rambeau.

Metro Goldwyn Mayer

PUBLISHED BY

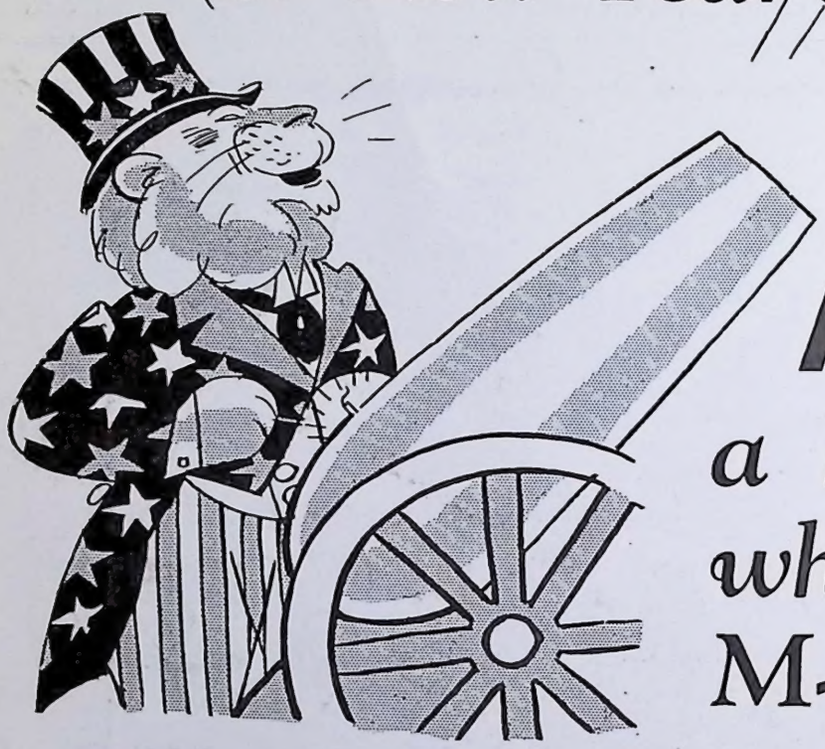
CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED

259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2

B.N. 18r

WHETHER IT'S THE 4TH OF JULY

(or New Year's)—



IT'S ALWAYS

a holiday when you play M-G-M pictures!

ISN'T IT GREAT THE WAY LEO IS STARTING OFF THE NEW YEAR! Every one of 'em is the kind you love to get—

MARION DAVIES in THE BACHELOR FATHER. Richly human, uproariously funny. Another "Let Us Be Gay." Based on Belasco's stage hit. With Ralph Forbes. Directed by Robert Z. Leonard.

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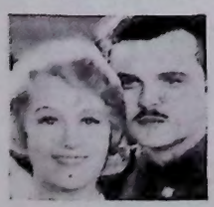

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METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

Canadian Moving Picture DIGEST

Established in 1915 for Exhibitors
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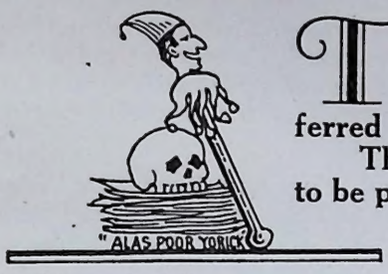
RAY LEWIS
Editor and Managing Director

Vol. 22, No. 36 | TORONTO 2, CANADA | January 3rd, 1931

Have Minority Shareholders Rights?



THERE is a suit to restrain the sale of Pathe to RKO, filed in the Supreme Court of the United States by three stockholders owning 1,400 shares of preferred stock, and 400 shares of common.

The complaint charges that $5,000,000, which is the sum to be paid in the RKO-Pathe deal, is not an adequate sum.

When the Paramount-Publix took over the Famous Players Canadian Corporation, about 800 shareholders, holding approximately 100,000 shares, protested against the Paramount-Publix offer, and formed a Protective Association to protect their interests, but they have not yet brought legal action for damages, as a result of sale.

The case of the Pathe-RKO will be watched in Canada with interest. It will establish a precedent on the rights of minority shareholders, who in many companies constitute the majority of shareholders, even though they do not hold the controlling stock.

In the case of the Paramount-Publix absorption of Famous Players Canadian, there was a trust of three formed; and this trust composed of Adolph Zukor, N. L. Nathanson, and I. W. Killam, pledged themselves to keep the Famous Players Canadian, under Canadian control, for a period of ten years, as covering the voting rights of shareholders, who placed their voting rights in the trust of this Voting Trust.

Someone betrayed the shareholders. Someone broke the agreement arrangements for Canadian-control. Someone sold out the minority shareholders, and since Mr. N. L. Nathanson was not a party to the sale; and did not participate in the transaction which made the Famous Players Canadian foreign-controlled, the onus must fall upon Adolph Zukor, and I. W. Killam.

Adolph Zukor was a member of the Voting Trust; and by what right, by what procedure in business was Adolph Zukor qualified to sell the Famous Players Canadian to his own company?

The minority shareholders protested against the price which Paramount-Publix offered. Is there any Justice, or Court of Justice, in the Dominion of Canada which will sanction the action of Adolph Zukor and I. W. Killam, which will sanction the action of the other directors, who deliberately refused a cash offer of $75.00 a share from Gaumont British, and later a cash offer of $60.00 a share from a Canadian syndicate, to accept an exchange of shares, on a basis of five shares of Famous Players Canadian, for four shares of Paramount-Publix, which if converted into cash at the time of the transfer would not have given the Canadian shareholders more than $43.00 for their shares?

Someone is responsible for forcing the Canadian shareholders to lose several millions of dollars in this Paramount-Publix - Famous Players Canadian deal. Are they going to get away with it?

"Plenty of Humor and Tuneful Songs" —London Sunday News.

"Will Be the Best Money-Taker."— Glasgow Evening News.

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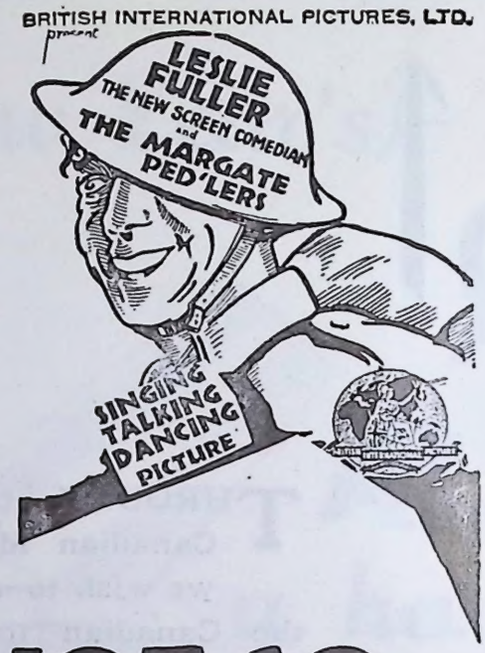

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A Screamingly Funny Musical Burlesque

"Plenty of Popular Appeal and Bright Humor."-- Daily Film Renter

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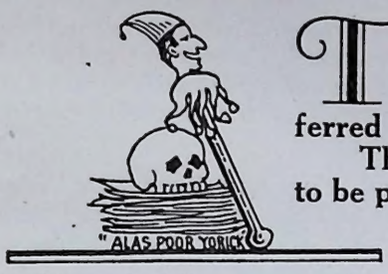

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RAY PRESENTS

RAY LEWIS

THE GOVERNMENT is investigating the status of Paramount-Publix in Canada, as this company relates itself to Famous Players. Thousands of pages of evidence relative to the "Combine" angle have been secured, but it is when the Government searches for the evidence, which discloses the methods used to crush out the opposition arrayed to keep Famous-Players Canadian from becoming Paramount-Publix, that the Government will have secured its most valuable evidence of "Combine" machinery, and power.

What was the "control" which permitted a few directors of Famous Players Canadian, to disregard the wishes of the majority of the shareholders of Famous Players?

What power is exercised in this "Combine" now, that they have no sense of apprehension in connection with the Paramount-Publix deal which gave this company control of Canada's screens, a deal which was described "on the street" at Montreal, as one of the "rawest deals ever put over in that city?"

WHAT is termed in business, misrepresentation? Did the directors, who sold Famous Players to Paramount-Publix, deliberately violate the terms of a Voting Trust in Canada, and act in direct opposition to a prospectus published to Canadians, soliciting their purchase of shares to "insure Canadian control of Famous Players?"

It is said that the "mills of the gods grind slowly." How long is Canada going to take to register its disapproval of the manner in which Paramount-Publix secured the control of Famous Players Canadian; and its disapproval of any foreign control of Canada's screens?

The shareholders still have their right to appeal to the Courts in this matter of being "sold out," in violation of a Trust agreement; and at a price much lower than was offered. And it may be that the shareholders are awaiting the result of the Government investigation before they bring action.

THE BENEFIT PERFORMANCE by the Exhibitors Co-operative on the evening of December 23rd gave the unemployed $843.75. This sum was deposited with Mr. J. E. Atkinson for disbursement. A committee consisting of A. Polakoff, Harry Alexander, George Lester. Nathan Taylor, R. Tickner and Mrs. Joshua Smith (Ray Lewis), brought a check for this amount to the President of the Toronto Daily Star, Mr. Atkinson.

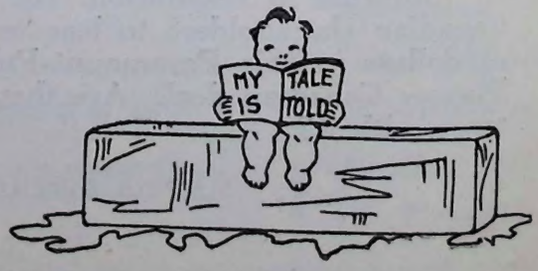
On Thursday, January 8th, Loew's will hold a Midnight Show, for the Benefit of the Unemployed, under the distinguished patronage of the Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, and under the auspices of The Disraeli Canadian Club. Mrs. Joshua Smith (Ray Lewis) is the convenor of the Theatre Benefit Committee; and it is hoped that a large sum of money will be raised to help toward the relief of the present unemployment crisis.

OUR mail brings us a letter of a Midnight Show staged at The Capitol Theatre, Peterboro, Ont., December 18th, for the Unemployed, which drew capacity business. The receipts were $540.70, and this entire sum was turned over to the Peterboro Examiner's Unemployed Relief Fund. Jack Stewart, Manager of the Capitol Theatre, promoted the benefit performance, falling in with The Digest's campaign for theatre benefit performances, for the Unemployed, across Canada.

Another instance of community service reaches us through the offices of the Regal Films, whose staff collected approximately $150.00, and through this sum was able to take care of twenty families for Christmas. An investigation was made; and special attention directed to those families, who were in the greatest need. Each box donated contained a roast of beef (choice quality), canned goods, groceries, vegetables, bread and milk tickets, etc., etc. Mr. Mavety donated his trucks and drivers in order to facilitate the delivery of the gifts, and the staff of the Regal had the merriest kind of a Christmas, shopping for the needy, packing the boxes; and participating in the joy of the giving of their gifts.

Members of the staff visited each home to ascertain whether the family had those articles of food which they were in need of; and if only half of the blessings which they received come true, Regal is blessed forever and forever and a day!

AND now may we continue to hear of Benefit Performances for the Unemployed. There is a great need for the greatest co-operation. It is reported that no year since the War has been so dire, and full of distress as the past year of 1930, indeed, it is said, that no year in this century shows such economic distress, and political unrest. Resolve to do your bit!



The New Film on Broadway

By *Betty Ross*

"NEW MOON," a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Production, directed by Jack Conway and featuring two operatic stars, Lawrence Tibbett and Grace Moore. Based on the operetta by Hammerstein, Mandel and Schwab. Music by Sigmund Romberg.

This offering is not only a beautiful and romantic screen-operetta but boasts superb music and unforgettable singing. Lawrence Tibbett, admirable in his first film, "The Rogue Song" even shows an improvement in "New Moon," and both the voice and blonde charms of Grace Moore are dreamily beautiful.

The story has a more plausible plot than most musical films, and its romance is also more convincing. Last but not least, it brings back to the screen that beloved prodigal, Adolph Menjou.

When Mr. Tibbett and Miss Moore blend their thrilling voices together in duets like "Wanting You" and "Lover, Come Back to Me," nothing more pleasurable is to be imagined. A tricky Russian song, sung by both artists, and translated by Mr. Tibbett brought down the house. And it was impossible to make the feet behave when the martial marching music started.

"New Moon" in plot, is as old and new as love itself. Here is another romance of a princess and a lieutenant of the guards. The young lieutenant meets and woos his royal sweetheart during a sea-voyage. Then he discovers that she is going to wed the governor of a neighbouring province. Believing she is mocking him, his anger gives him the audacity to "crash" into the governor's private party. For this presumption he is soundly horse-whipped by the enraged princess. Sent to a rioting camp by the Governor as a polite way to be killed, he subdues the natives—and eventually wins the heart of his lady!

Mr. Tibbett's songs are the finest yet heard on the screen. Miss Moore's voice is incomparably sweet. Their art gives a warmth and beauty to the film which proves an unusual treat to the audience.

The cast of characters supporting the two operatic stars, is adequate. Adolphe Menjou does well as the Governor; Roland Young as the princess' uncle, Gus Shy and Emily Fitzroy make this stand out as an enjoyable film with more than superior music.

* * * *

"THE COHENS AND THE KELLYS IN AFRICA," a Universal Production, directed by Vin Moore.

We've seen this mixed pair of couples (which about describes them) everywhere else, so why not in Africa now? To drop such a foursome as Charlie Murray, Kate Price, George Sidney and Vera Gordon plump down on the face of the dark continent ought to make quite an impression there, and in this picture it does, making this talkie a "roarie" in a setting of jungles, safaris, vampires and other wild animals galore! To see the ever puzzled Charlie bumping along with his partner in a rickshaw, and plump little George stalking jungle monsters, is hilarious. Add to this two nerve-frazzled fat wives, wild beasts, harems and sinuous cuties, cannibals and sheiks and imagine the result yourself!

This episode tells how Cohen and Kelly, who are in the piano business, receive many complaints about the quality of their ivory keys. A brilliant idea directs them to Africa, where ivory grows to pick enough off the bushes to bring home and make a fortune. So they pack up suitcases, and with plump wives and high hearts, descend upon darkest Africa.

Business is business to this Irish-Jewish combine, but where romance can also be picked off the bushes, the two partners are not averse to opportunity. Disguised as Arab sheiks they invade a harem. All would have been milk and honey had not their harassed better-halves discovered them! What happens afterwards is better witnessed than described.

Don't pass up this comedy. It is thick with laughs —at this depressing time—very welcome and enjoyable.

* * * *

"THE MIDDLE WATCH," a British-International Production, based on the stage success of the same name by Ian Hay and Stephen King-Hall. Featuring Owen Nares and Jacqueline Logan.

Some time ago England plucked the sweet person of Jacqueline Logan from the gardens of Hollywood. She is now featured in this new British film, "The Middle Watch" and the eyes of the movie world watch eagerly this re-appearance. Prettier than ever and decidedly Anglicized in accent, manner and diction, Jackie appears as a treat now for eye and ear.

Dodo Watts has the other leading feminine role and plays it admirably. Owen Nares is the captivating leading male character.

The plot centres around two attractive young women who have attended a dance aboard a naval cruiser. When it is time to leave they miss the last boat ashore and are compelled to stay on the battle ship. Since their presence there is against all rules and regulations, they are forced to concealment. Many embarrassing complications naturally arise from this situation. The most humorous are those centering around the stern old Admiral of the cruiser, whom, of all people, the girls most wish to avoid. It all makes for plenty of laughter and fun.

Also, in the cast are Jack Raine, Frederick Volpe, Margaret Halstan and Reginald Pudell who play their respective roles with distinction.

* * * *

"CHARLIE'S AUNT," a Columbia picture, from the stage farce by Brandon Thomas, produced and directed by Al Christie. Featuring Charles Ruggles.

An old English play, its comedy is evidently immortal, for the gags, jokes and situations create the same hearty guffaws that they did 40 years ago. The action is indescribably uproarious, particularly in the person of Charles Ruggles who wears the wig, corsets and gown of Charlie's Aunt.

We were unable to get all the dialogue because the laughter around us simply drowned it out. But we had a heap of fun, and after all, that's what the picture was made for.

Halliwell Hobbes is excellent as the wicked guardian of the two heroines. June Collyer and Flora Sheffield were well-bred, modest young ladies. The rest of the cast, Rodney McLennon, Hugh Williams, Wilson Benge, Flora Le Brenton, Phillips Smalley and Doris Lloyd were competent. The technique of Charles Ruggles cannot be sufficiently praised. One must see him as Charlie's spinster aunt to enjoy the exquisite delight of this comedian's rare performance.

Observations

By The Editor

THE DAILY FILM RENTER of December 15th, has as its leading article, "Canadian Attack on Quota System." A sub-heading reads, "Lt.-Col. Cooper's criticism of the British Act" and further cites, "Facts which do not apply to today."

The article in the Daily Film Renter reveals the attack by Lt.-Col. J. A. Cooper on the Films Act, after the question was submitted to the Conference on behalf of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire by Sir Arthur Shirley Benn, K.B.E., acting as Chairman of the Council.

* * * *

IN THE REPORT this statement was read, "The Commonwealth of British Nations has already recognized the importance of controlling its own system of wireless and cable communications. The Federation is strongly of the opinion that the time has come that it awakened to the importance of possessing a kinema industry of its own."

* * * *

IN CONNECTION with this quotation, it was reported that Prime Minister Scullin, of Australia, promised to use his influence to try and induce the Australian State Parliaments to introduce Quota laws. The memorandum was the direct outcome, as reported by the Daily Film Renter, of the Twelfth Congress of Empire Chambers of Commerce, which took place in London, under the patronage of H. M., The King, during the summer.

The film industry occupied a leading place in the discussion, participated in by representatives from various parts of the Empire. A much discussed topic was, according to this London paper, "a strong attack on the British Quota Act by one of the Canadian delegates, Lt.-Col. J. A. Cooper, a leading representative of the film industry, who described the Act, so far as it applied up to the beginning of the present year, as a 'failure'."

* * * *

THE ARTICLE continues, "Colonel Cooper was opposing a resolution proposed by Mr. W. M. Birks, a Canadian delegate on the Executive Committee, and seconded by another Canadian delegate from Ontario, which called upon H. M. Governments throughout the Empire, "To take steps to foster the growth of the film industry free from foreign dominance, and producing films permeated with the ideals of our own peoples, and calculated to promote British interests."

* * * *

"COL. COOPER'S main point was that theatres were erected primarily for the purpose of entertainment, and he thought the governments of the Empire would step outside their province if they attempted to dictate to the owners and patrons of those theatres what pictures should be shown there. That was a general principle in regard to which there might be divergence of opinion, but he thought there was something to be said for it.

"Colonel Cooper also alleged that those who ran theatres in Great Britain had found the Act very difficult, and that certain articles in the press (quoted in Canadian papers) condemned the Act as having failed. He mentioned particularly an article in the Daily Telegraph of January.

"HE also alleged that it had been stated in the House of Commons that the Act, instead of improving the pictures produced in this country, had caused them to deteriorate, because the producers had a market for inferior product, and did not keep the quality up.

"Regarding Canada, Col. Cooper said they experienced difficulty in getting British pictures, although an effort had been made to cultivate them. No representative of a British film company had ever come to Canada to sell a British picture until 1929, when the Gaumont Co. opened an office in Toronto.

"He had been connected with the Motion Picture Industry of Canada for nine years, and had been at the service of British producers to help them in the distribution of their films, but up to that date had never received a letter from any British producer.

"He also found fault with the fact that British pictures usually came to Canada via the U. S.

"Instead of asking for an extension of the Quota Laws, he thought the Congress might reasonably promote some other plan for the production of more Empire films."

* * * *

MR. BIRKS, who moved the original resolution, gave a list of the number of theatres, approximately 10,000, throughout the Empire, and stated that where there was no Quota system, 90% of the films exhibited were American, although there was a market available in Empire territory for British films.

The Congress unanimously passed the following resolution, "That this Congress, impressed by the immense influence, which the kinematograph exercises upon the social, political, and economic ideals of nations, requests the Council of the Federation to take such steps as may be in their power to foster the growth of a Film Industry calculated to promote British Empire interests."

* * * *

MR. JOHN MAXWELL, President of British International Pictures, in reply to Col. Cooper's criticism, states that it is "Behind the times." "The Act has most decidedly been a success," repeats Mr. Maxwell "Our industry today is prosperous, whereas before the Act it was down and out."

"Statistics for the past year, when they are published, will afford the best answer to Col. Cooper's remarks. They will reveal the strides this country has made in its efforts to become a world power in the film business."

* * * *

COL. COOPER'S statement has provoked a veritable hornet's nest of comment, but unfortunately, Col. Cooper is not in a position to pass judgment upon statements which he is at times forced to make, because he represents American Film Interests, principally; and "no man can serve two masters."

When Col. Cooper presented himself as a delegate to this conference, the Industry in Canada, that is the Industry in general, was not aware of the fact that he had been sent as a representative of the Film Industry here, inasmuch as Col. Cooper does not speak, nor represent the Canadian Film Industry, but the Producer-Distributors of the United States, who have a Hays' Organization in the U. S., and a Canadian affiliated organization here, of which Col. Cooper is the head.

(Continued on page 11)

Perkins Electric Open New Toronto Store

Toronto Staff, Perkins Electric Company.

The new Toronto store of the Perkins Electric Company Limited, L. F. Hoffman, Manager, situated at 277 Victoria Street has been completed and is now serving Ontario and Western Canada exhibitors. This store is up-to-date in every particular, and is stocked with the finest and latest type equipment for the Motion Picture Industry, decorated in two shades of green with an abundance of show windows, and a large floor display. The Perkins Company can well be proud of their new Toronto Store.

Toronto Store, Perkins Electric Company.

Observations

(Continued from Page 10)

THESE facts should be considered in any British criticism which may be made in connection with Col. Cooper's statement. Were Col. Cooper representing a British organization, his statements would then receive a different valuation, but unfortunately for Col. Cooper, his "job" is naturally prejudicial to any British film advice which he might give in connection with the promotion of British Film interests. But here again, it is the "job" which is to blame, and not Col. Cooper, who is a Britisher, assigned to the job of promoting foreign film interests.

The New Film on Broadway

By *Betty Ross*

(Continued from Page 9)

"FREE LOVE," a Universal production, based on Sidney Howard's stage play, "Half Gods." Directed by Hobart Henley and featuring Conrad Nagel and Genevieve Tobin.

"Free Love" unites one of the finest stage actresses with a male movie luminary, Genevieve Tobin and Conrad Nagel.

They capably portray a husband and wife who for six years have tolerated each other in a rather uneventful life. He is a meek worm of a man, she a restless spirit who becomes bored with the sheer peacefulness of married life. Then she bumps into "psychoanalysis" and learns that what she needs more of this freedom in capital letters. She decides to go in for that! Rather than lose her, the patient husband submits to all her whims. When he needs her wifely care and attention she is staying out nights, and whooping it up with his best friend. Then the worm turns! The doormat shakes itself, stands upright and becomes a man. From then on, things begin to hum and wifie makes a quick about-face in scenes that delight the audience.

Hobart Henley proves he is a past master at directing this type of smart drawing-room comedy. Conrad Nagel is his usual admirable self, and his co-star, Genevieve Tobin, gives a smooth, commendable performance.

NEW SOUND ACCESSORIES

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Lens Turret The introduction of this turrett eliminates entirely all difficulties the projectionist experienced heretofore in connection with lens changing systems, and makes it possible to use three lenses accurately set at all times, one for sound-on-film, one for silent or disk, and the other for effects or any other combination which it is desired to incorporate - Write for Installed Price

Pyrene Guns are required in every operating room. Complete with wall bracket **$14.00**

Sound Hand Books Cameron's Manual, $7.50 - Richardson's Vol. 3, $5.50

Perkins Electric Company Limited

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277 Victoria Street
TORONTO

Toronto Theatres

LOEW'S—Manager Jules Bernstein—One of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's headliners, "Min and Bill," co-starring Marie Dressler and Wallace Beery. Marie Dressler plays the part of Min, the rough and ready owner of a waterfront dive, who has brought up the heroine of the picture, since she was a baby. Wallace Beery, as Bill, does an excellent characterization of Min's sailor boarder. The picture is a drama full of human interests, but it has also its humorous moments. Very able and clever directing by George Hill.

UPTOWN — Manager Tom Daley — "Oh, What a Man," a Fox picture featuring Jeannette MacDonald and Reginald Denny. Miss MacDonald is the prima donna who leaves the stage because her husband wishes it, but who later returns to it and makes a successful re-entry. Reginald Denny, the burglar who tries to rob the prima donna, but who reforms and later marries her, does some excellent acting. The picture contains some fine singing and manages to hold the interest of the audience from start to finish.

TIVOLI—Manager Jimmy Lynch — The irrepressible Will Rogers in "Lightnin'". Rogers in the title role of the drunken, lazy, good-hearted Lightnin' plays his part to perfection. The closing scene of the picture is a riot, it is laid in a court-room where Lightnin's wife, Louise Dresser, is bringing a divorce proceeding against him. The best laugh of the picture is Lightnin's cross-examination of his wife's attorney. However, notwithstanding all complications, the couple is reconciled in the end. This Fox picture is a very clever comedy directed by Henry King.

IMPERIAL—Manager H. V. Knevels — Paramount's juvenile picture with Mitzi Green. "Tom Sawyer," the title role, is played by one of the old favorites, Jackie Coogan, who is welcomed back with open arms by children and adults alike. Coogan as Tom is a "regular kid" who is always getting in and out of trouble, he makes Mark Twain's "Tom" live for you. Mitzi Green as Becky, plays her part like a real old-timer.

Society of Motion Picture Engineers To Hold Meeting in Hollywood

The Spring meeting of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers will be held in Hollywood May 25th to 28th, according to announcement by W. C. Kunzmann following a recent meeting of the Board of Governors.

O M. Glunt, Chairman of the Papers Committee has already begun work in securing representative speakers and papers for the meeting.

The last meeting to be held in Hollywood was in the Spring of 1928 and with so many new developments brought about by sound in the studios since then, the coming convention is expected to be of great interest and value to the members of the Society.

Cobourg to Have New Theatre

The Cobourg Opera House, Cobourg, Ont., is to be transformed into a moving picture theatre. This move was decided upon by a council session. The council is willing to remodel the Opera House in order to make it suitable for a moving picture house, further the theatre will operate with prices that compete favorably with other talkie houses. The council will try and have the house leased as soon as possible.

Panic Averted by Operator

What might have been a panic and cost several lives was averted by a calm, clear headed operator at the Academy Theatre, Bloor St., Toronto, Ont. When the film caught fire during the last performance of the show, the operator seized the burning film from the projection machine, and at great personal risk, ran to the door and threw the blazing negative into the snow. A passer-by seeing the action, put in an alarm, but the fire was quite out when the firemen arrived.

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Show Business

The Grand Opera House, Hamilton, Ont., has turned to a modified form of burlesque, known as "Girlesque," and talking pictures as a permanent venture, according to the announcement of Manager Maton. Three shows are presented daily and top price is 50c. The Grand is the former legitimate house of Hamilton.

Instead of making pictures to advertise Ontario to the people of other lands, the Provincial Motion Picture Bureau is now engaged in the taking of scenes in the British Isles under the direction of Major G. A. Patton, director of the bureau, for showing in Canadian theatres as a pictorial treat for former residents of Great Britain and Ireland.

During the holidays following Christmas, Manager Ray Tubman conducted morning matinees for children on successive days during the engagement of "Tom Sawyer" at the Regent Theatre, Ottawa, and the house was crowded each time. This did not hurt the regular afternoon shows as many children were also present at these performances at regular prices.

The Imperial Theatre, Montreal, formerly the leading local vaudeville house, has again adopted a new policy with pictures. Programs are being changed weekly instead of twice each week and the double-feature bill has been adopted by Manager Howard Conover, prices remaining as before with 40c top. R.K.O. vaudeville was discontinued last September when the house orchestra walked out in sympathy with the musicians of another local house.

The calendar year came to a close in official circles of Ottawa without the handing down of a decision in the Exchequer Court of Canada in the action of De-Forest Phonofilms of Canada, Limited, against Famous Players Canadian Corp. and Northern Electric Company, Limited, for alleged violation of patent rights on talking picture equipment. The case was heard six months ago.

Intimation has been made that Hon. A. K. MacLean, the presiding justice, has found it necessary to make an exhaustive search of the patent laws of Canada and Great Britain because of the basic nature of the suit. A similar DeForest action was heard in the United States in which judgment was delivered within a few days but an appeal was immediately entered by the defendants.

The Dominion now has a strictly Canadian edition of the Paramount News which is produced under the direction of Famous-Lasky Film Service, Ltd., largely at the request of censor boards which desired fewer United States topical views. The latter are subordinated to Canadian, English and European shots.

The Quebec Provincial Government has seized two film features at Rouyn, Quebec, on complaint of the theatre proprietor at Rouyn and others that the pictures contained Soviet propaganda. They were being shown by a man known only as Romanoff. An investigation has been ordered by the Quebec Government. Eugene Beaulac, the new chairman of the Quebec censor board, was asked for an explanation and it was stated that the films had been approved by the board under a misrepresentation.

Several changes have been effected by Manager T. R. Tubman for the patrons of the Regent Theatre, at Ottawa, Ontario. One has been the adoption of the plan to open new programs on Friday instead of Saturday and another decision settles the problem in connection with the presentation of French-language films in the Canadian Capital. In future the French pictures are to be shown at intervals at extra midnight performances only. English-language films to hold sway at regular afternoon and evening shows.

The Court of Appeal at Winnipeg has handed down a decision which affects the operation of all miniature golf courses and other amusements in the Province of Manitoba. The judgment rules that the playing of pygmy golf on Sundays is in contravention of the Lord's Day Act and is therefore illegal. Theatres in Manitoba cities have always closed on Sundays but now all other places of amusement must also shut down on that day.

The Ontario Board of Moving Picture Censors has approved "Hell's Angels" for showing in Ontario theatres after rejecting the production two months ago when it was about to play the Royal Alexandra Theatre at Toronto as a road show. Various revisions have been made, however, and one of them is highly interesting in that the riotous cabaret scenes have been changed so that the air officers will represent American soldiers and not Canadians as in the original version.

The Strand Theatre, St. John, N.B., is the first house in Canada to be equipped with "wired seats" for the special accommodation of the near-deaf. F. G. Spencer, veteran showman, is the proprietor of the Strand.

At a cost of $40,000 the Bijou Theatre, located centrally on Main Street, Winnipeg, has been remodelled to meet changing conditions in the moving picture presentation world. Apart from the outside walls and the roof, nothing is left of the former building, the interior having been renovated and changed from the former conditions. The Bijou is now a handsomely appointed house. Marble inside walls, in Gothic effect, with the upper panels of the walls of modernistic tendency, with illumination by reasons of indirect lighting, giving a quiet coloring to the embellishments that is most soothing. All the old seats have been removed, and are replaced by up-to-date, comfortably upholstered air cushion seats. All the floor of the auditorium and of the beautiful foyer is covered with Ozite on which is super-imposed thick carpet of British manufacture.

Turning to the projection room, not seen by the public, but a most important part of the theatre, one notes it is supplied with the latest equipment and has been made absolutely fireproof.

Round About the Studios

Greta Garbo, famous Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer player.

Walter Merrill, well-known stage and screen character actor, was yesterday cast for the role of the jealous husband, who pursues Buster Keaton over roofs and fire escapes with a gun, in "Parlor, Bedroom and Bath," the comedy star's vehicle at the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios.

Merrill is noted in talkies for his work in "Jealous Husbands," "The Bride," "The Office Wife," and other hits. Before coming to the screen he had a wide experience on the stage, in stock companies in many cities.

Neil Hamilton is to have the male lead in "Gambling Daughters," the Booth Tarkington story which Hobart Henley is to put into production at Universal City this week. Already two promising New York stage personalities have been cast. They are Sidney Fox and Bette Davis. Carl Laemmle, Jr., is looking forward to registering two new personalities, as he did in "A Lady Surrenders," when Genevieve Tobin and Rose Hobart were both introduced to screen audiences and both registered in no uncertain fashion.

Leila Hyams and Anita Page, sharing leading feminine honors in "Gentleman's Fate," in which John Gilbert is starred by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, both are blondes of the same degree of lightness, a coincidence which, oddly enough, plays an important part in the story.

The most coveted prize of the year among the younger set of screen actresses in Hollywood, that of the role of Trilby in the production of "Svengali" which Warner Bros. are to make with John Barrymore as its star, has fallen to a newcomer in the ranks, Marian Marsh.

Work on "Down River" for Gaumont British at the Shepherd's Bush Studios is drawing to a close, and Peter Godfrey expects to have finished the picture very soon.

From aerial raids with the French Foreign Legion to the latest crook role of the screen is the record of Paul Hurst, noted character actor who has been signed to play the role of Mizoski in "The Secret Six," Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's drama of city politics and the underworld.

Hurst, noted for his screen roles, is famous as an aviator. He served during the war with the French Foreign Legion air branch.

In pictures he is noted for his work in "California Mail," "Racketeers," "A Sailor's Holiday," "Buttons," "The Cossacks" and other plays.

Tiffany will be well represented on the new silver screen of the Leicester Square Theatre of London when it opens January 19th with "The Little Covered Wagon," popular Tiffany Talking Chimp comedy, chosen as the only short subject for the opening bill.

The clever Talking Chimps have most recently completed "Aping Hollywood" and "Nine Nights in a Bar Room."

An auspicious send-off is being given by Fox Film officials to the directorial debuts of Kenneth MacKenna and William Cameron Menzies. Elissa Landi, Fox Films entrant for stellar honors during the new year, has been assigned as leading lady for their first picture, "Always Goodbye." It will be an adaptation of an original story by Kate McLaurin, with John Considine acting as associate producer.

Lillian Bond, who played the feminine lead in the road company of "Follow Thru," has been signed by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer for motion picture work. Miss Bond is now in Los Angeles, although her first assignment has not yet been announced. She had an ingenue part in the Hammerstein production, "Luana," last fall.

Helene Millard's clever acting of a small part in "More Than A Kiss" for Fox Film had two results: Director William K. Howard expanded the role into an important part, then recomended her to Director Frank Borzage for one of the featured roles in "Doctors' Wives," in which Warner Baxter and Joan Bennett play the leads.

Although Miss Millard has been in the talkies for some time, her success in the Fox picture is more pronounced than any that has attended her previous film work.

Warren Hymer has been awarded a new long term contract by Fox Films in recognition of excellent portrayals of both villainous and comedy characters. His first picture under the new contract will be "Charlie Chan Carries On."

Gloria Swanson's next film for United Artists will be "Obey That Impulse!" and it will be a non-musical production for which DeSylva, Brown and Henderson, capitulating temporarily to the public's demand for dramatic screen fare, have provided a story described as intensely dramatic.

Will Rogers is not willing to try some things even once. For instance, there came sequences in "A Connecticut Yankee" where Director David Butler and the Fox studio heads agreed that the principal character should wear tights. But Rogers hemmed and hawed and reneged. Finally a compromise was reached whereby Will was permitted to wear a pair of overalls and a tunic, topping the costume with a brown derby and a feather a la Yankee Doodle.

Ramon Novarros forthcoming starring film is definitely "Daybreak," according to an announcement by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

This is an adaptation of Schnitzler's internationally popular story of the same name, and will be directed by Jacques Feyder, noted French director who has been under contract to M-G-M for the past two years for English and foreign dialogue films.

Jean Hersholt is the first player to be selected for the supporting cast of "Daybreak," which is likely to go into production early in the new year.

Eddie Cantor, writing the dialog for "Mr. Lemon of Orange," Fox picture starring El Brendel, revealing that it had been his intention to use the Brendel story as one of his own pictures. Circumstances are such that Cantor would not have been able to use the story for more than a year, so he gave up the idea of playing the leading role and was content to write the dialog.

J. J. Murdock, noted theatrical and vaudeville producer, recently visited the set of "Girls Demand Excitement" at the Fox Movietone studios, for the specific purpose of watching Martha Sleeper enact one of the featured roles. Miss Sleeper is his niece and Seymour Felix, director, permitted Mr. Murdock to get first-hand view of her ability as an actress.

John Boles has been summoned back to Universal City from his snow bound cabin in Bear Lake by Carl Laemmle, Jr. He has decided to put him in "Seed," the Charles G. Norris play which the famous author himself is adapting to the screen with Gladys Lehman. Boles has just finished "Resurrection" with Lupe Velez who is now busy on the Spanish version.

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